

**REMARKS**

In the Office Action, the Examiner noted that claims 3-19 and 21-25 were pending (although claims 16 and 17 were canceled in the Amendment filed January 5, 2005 and the Office Action mailed May 20, 2005 indicated claims 16 and 17 were not pending); rejected claims 3, 5, 6, 8-19 and 21-25; and objected to claims 4 and 7 as dependent from rejected base claims. Claims 3, 4, 7 and 21 have been canceled and claims 26 and 27 have been added. Thus, claims 5, 6, 8-15, 18, 19 and 22-27 remain in the case.

Claim 26 incorporates the limitations of claims 3, 4 and 21 and thus has the same scope as claim 4, while claim 27 incorporates the limitations of claims 7 and 26 and thus has the same scope as claim 7. Claims 5, 6 and 8-15 have been amended to depend from claim 26. Claims 22-25 have been amended to incorporate limitations similar to those previously recited in claims 3 and 4 and claims 18 and 19 depend from claim 23. As a result, it is submitted that claims 5, 6, 8-15, 18, 19 and 22-27 are in a condition suitable for allowance. Reconsideration of the claims and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 3/22/06

By: Richard A. Gollhofer  
Richard A. Gollhofer  
Registration No. 31,106

1201 New York Ave, N.W., 7th Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
Telephone: (202) 434-1500  
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)  
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on 3/22/2006  
STAAS & HALSEY Richard A. Gollhofer  
By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 3/22/06